I *(See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 17} & II (See Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 18)].

(d) A project generally consists of more than one units. As the project is appraised and sanctioned as a composite entity, the precise amount of money involved in the commissioning of each unit and the deployment of the staff thereon can not be estimated.

Number of Extra-Departmental Empolyees

508. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number, of extra departmental employees employed as sub postmasters, branch postmasters and mail carriers in remote rural areas of the country during the last, three years Statewise;

(b) the salaries and allowances paid to sub postmasters, branch postmasters and mail carriers per month alongwith their educational qualifications; and

(c) total amount paid as salaries and allowances to these extra departmental employees during the last financial year and so far during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Allowances paid to them are given in the enclosed annexure *[See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 19]. Educational qualifications in respect of ED sub postmasters and ED branch postmasters is VIII standard (Matriculation or equivalent preferred). As regards EDMCs, they should have sufficient working knowledge of regional language and simple Arithmatic.

(c) The total expenditure on all categories of ED staff for the year 1987-88 is 103.18 crores and that for the year 1988-89 upto September, 1988 is 60.39 crores.

Number of Postmen

509. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAL Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of postmen working in the country circlewise as on December 31, 1988:

(b) the corresponding figures of postmen during the years 1982-83; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal under consideration for increasing the number of postmen as the population has increased tremendously during the years 1983-84 to 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement *(see* below)

(c) The justification for increased number of postmen based upon the workload is being assessed. The additional demand, if any, will be taken up with the Ministry of Finance for approval.

Statement

SI. No.	Circle	Total number of Postmen working as ion Dec. 1988 (Approx.)	Corresponding figures during the years 1982-83
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3544	3865
2.	Assam	950	986
3.	Bihar	2641	2863
4.	Delhi	2531	2783
5.	Gujarat	3710	3843
6.	Haryana	865	895
7.	Himachal Pradesh	391	385
8.	Karnataka	3170	3262
9.	Kerala	3044	3182
10.	J.& K.	434	411
11	Maharashtra	8527	8869
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2437	2180

1	2	3	4
13.	Northern Eastern	561	259
14.	Punjab	1671	1666
15.	Orissa	998	918
16.	Rajasthan	1901	1798
17.	Tamilnadu	5832	5957
18.	Uttar Pradesh	5343	5394
19.	West Bengal	5021	5593

Complaints about unsatisfactory Telephone Services

510. DR. MOHD. HASHlM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received regarding the highly unsatisfactory service of telephone during the year 1988;

(b) what were the corresponding figures for the years 1986 and 1987; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken by Government to improve the telephone service especially in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and other' State capitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMAN-GO): (a) and (b) The details are given below :—

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	April 88 to Dec. 88
Complaints/ 100 stations/ month	40.5	36.8	30	28

(c) To improve the telecom, services in cities like Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Delhi and other State Capitals, the following steps have been taken by the Department:—

(i) Replacement of old, wornout electromechanical exchanges by Electronic ones;

(ii) Replacement of old telephone instruments by new one;

(iii) Replacement of overhead alignments by underground cables;

(iv) Replacement of fault prone underground cables and drop wires by new one; and

(v) Rehabilitation and locking of DPs.

Suspending release of LPG for hotels and non-domestic use by Bharat Petrol. Corporation Limited

511. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has suspended the release of LPG for the use by hotels and for non-domestic use;

(b) if so, since when this has been stopped;

(c) whether there is any proposal to restart the supply of LPG for hotels and for non-domestic use; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) while release of LPG for new hotels and non-domestic users is being made by the oil industry in a restricted manner, supplies to existing users have not been restricted.

Action against the former Chairman of CIL

512. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a tact that the fomer Chairman of the Coal India Limited (CIL) failed to deliver the share docu' ments of the C.I.L. to the new incumbant on his transfer;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what departmental action has been taken against the Chairman failing to comply with the official duties?